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*The Suboesophageal Body of Insect Embryos.*—The question as to the origin and the morphological significance of the suboesophageal body which has been found in certain insect embryos is an open one. Hirschler<sup>1</sup> has studied this structure in embryos of *Donacia* and has added much to our knowledge of its nature. He finds that it is entodermal in origin and that from an unpaired rudiment at the end of the stomadeal invagination, there arise four rounded, paired masses which finally communicate directly with the lumen of the mid-intestine. These persist until at least the third day of larval life,—their further fate has not been studied.

Hirschler's results apparently confirm the theory of Nusbaum and Fulinski, '06, that the suboesophageal body is to be homologized with the hepatopancreas, or glandular diverticula of the mid-intestine, of the Crustacea.

W. A. RILEY.

**Stridulation Rhythm of Crickets.**—According to A. F. Shull (*Can. Ent.*, vol. 39, p. 213), in the chirping of the snowy cricket "exact synchronism is comparatively rare" and exists only between two or three neighboring individuals. Thus two crickets five feet apart were observed to time their chirps in unison as if they heard each other. The rate of stridulation is independent of wing length; in general it increases with rise in temperature, but Dolbear's and Bessey's formulae to express this relation are only approximately correct. Under the same conditions the rate in different individuals varied from 93 to 110 chirps per minute. Except on cool nights, from 600 to 800 chirps are usually performed continuously; one cricket was found to chirp 2,640 times without interruption.

**Notes.**—Bull. 110 of the N. Y. State Museum, preparatory to a monograph of the Cecidomyiidae, presents descriptions of 203 new species belonging to this group. The Cecidomyiidae, or gall gnats, are dipterous insects from 0.5 to 3.0 mm. in length which produce various leafy galls including the "willow cones." Bull. 109 of the N. Y. State Museum is devoted to the tussock moth and elm leaf beetle, presenting a colored plate of each, and six photographs showing their destructive effects. The gypsy moth and brown tail have not yet invaded New York.

<sup>1</sup> Hirschler, J. Über leberartige Mitteldarmdrüsen und ihre embryonale Entwicklung bei *Donacia*. *Zool. Anz.*, 1907, 31, pp. 766-770.